

Before Reading the articles, “Wireless technology changing work and play” and “Resisting Urge to download with the devil”, answer the following questions.

1. How does wireless technology affect you and the people around you?
2. What does “paradox” mean? Can you provide an example of one?
3. Do you think that technology is ahead of, or behind today's culture?
4. Explain What's proper etiquette for cell phone use, in your opinion?
5. What percent of the American population do you think owns a cell phone?
6. Smart Phones: Good or bad? Explain?
7. Is it possible for people in today's society to “be here now?” Why/Why not?
8. What are some negative effects of technology?



Wireless technology changing work and play

By Jason White
CNN

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With the proliferation of laptops and e-mail-enabled cell phones, the ability to disconnect is becoming harder.

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(CNN) -- Geoffrey Bowker, executive director of a research institute at Santa Clara University, remembers a time when going to academic conferences meant leaving office concerns behind, hearing provocative lectures and getting to experience a new city. He especially liked visiting art galleries.



No longer.

Now, wherever Bowker goes, his office goes with him. E-mails, phone calls and office documents float into his hands, demanding his attention at all hours of the day. Through a cell phone and his laptop computer, Bowker is as connected to his office at conferences as when he is there in person.

It's made him more productive, but he's not entirely satisfied.

"A huge difference for many is that we find it much more difficult to maintain barriers between work and play," said Bowker, executive director of Santa Clara University's Center for Science, Technology and Society, which studies technology's impact on culture.

The eroding distinction between work and play is one of the many paradoxes at the heart of our increasingly wireless world.

"This is always the case with new technology. Often the effects are paradoxical," Bowker said. "The overall upside is that we can maintain a rich social and cultural life while dashing from pillar to post. The overall downside is that our spiritual development -- which requires empty time, contemplation -- is suffering enormously."

Wireless use skyrockets

Ten years ago, the level of connectedness of today's world was just a prophecy. Cell phones were big and clunky and owned by few people. BlackBerries were a kind of fruit, not all-purpose remote office devices. And Bluetooth was what kids got after eating blueberry Slurpees, not the latest and greatest standard for short-range wireless technology.

Today, the use of wireless devices is widespread in the United States, and growing.

About 71 percent of America's 108 million households own at least one cell phone, according to Forrester Research Inc. More than 25 million households now own laptop computers, according to Forrester. And 5.3 million households have wireless Internet access.

"That doesn't sound like a big number, but it is up from zero a couple of years ago. That is rapid growth," said Charles Golvin, a principal analyst at Forrester.

More and more everyday devices -- including game consoles, music players, cameras and even cars -- are being designed with wireless connectivity in mind. ([Gadgets on the horizon](#))

"The future of devices that don't have some kind of connectivity built into them is pretty bleak. It's going to be the case that almost anything you can think of is going to connect to other things, most often wirelessly," Golvin said.

As various kinds of wireless devices become more common, the flow of content will increase as well. Movies will be downloaded in a flash and transported to any one of a number of viewers. Music will flow to cell phones. Music videos and news clips will be downloadable anywhere, anytime. These developments create new challenges for the creators and owners of this content.

"What are they going to do from a rights perspective?" Golvin asks. "Are they going to be more and more restrictive? Or are they going to embrace new business models, new ways to use content that is going to allow this stuff to flow?"

Stretching etiquette

The prevalence of wireless gadgets and networks is changing how people interact with one another. Social plans are made later in the day; conversations happen more frequently but with more brevity, and expectations evolve.

As wireless speeds increase, activities such as watching video on you phone will, too.

"Think of the early years of the answering machine on the telephone," said James Hughes, executive director of the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies and a professor at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. "You'd call someone, and at first you'd be annoyed that they'd have that annoying box answer the phone. Now, if a phone rings and rings and doesn't go to a message system, you think it is impolite."



Because this technology is designed to follow people wherever they go, it is difficult to come up with one-size-fits-all rules for wireless communication. What is OK at home may not be OK in the office. What is OK on the street may not be OK in church. ([Where are your wireless manners?](#))

"To me the technology is ahead of our culture. The common thing we hear about these days is etiquette. Should we be allowed to talk on airplanes is a current question? The behavioral aspects haven't transformed along with the technology," said Dave Mock, author of "The Qualcomm Equation."

Challenging security

Beyond etiquette and the need for personal space, security issues also loom large in a wireless world. From proprietary financial data to personal photographs, more and more information than ever before is floating through the air, accessible to thieves and vandals.

"It does make people more vulnerable. The wires aren't there to be seen. ... Wireless networks are much less secure," said Sarah Hicks, a vice president at Symantec Corp., a digital security company.

Hicks advises consumers to create passwords for all their devices and networks, install software that can protect against outside attacks and viruses, and open e-mails only from known sources. ([Protecting your network](#))

She said some wireless devices can be particularly dangerous because they constantly scan the area in search of available wireless networks. She recommends changing the settings so they don't mistakenly come across a harmful network.

"Wireless networks are great," Hicks said. "They enable a lot of freedom, but they also come with risks. Consumers need to protect themselves."

Resisting urge to download with the devil

Mary Schmich

May 25, 2005

"Don't you want one?" said the pusher.

I backed away. Looked around for some garlic. An ice pick. Anything to ward off this demon.

"No way," I spat.

"But you should have one," said the pusher, fingering his own with an evil chortle.

"Everybody in your position has one."

Really, he chided, what was I doing with that old cell phone? By "old" he meant dating to the ancient year 2004.

He knew how to get me what I needed, the pusher said. All I had to do was say the word.

The word was BlackBerry.

Have you ever gazed into hell? I did right then. Let me tell you what it looks like.

Hell is a place crowded with people thumbing their BlackBerries, chattering on their cell phones, shaking their earphones to an iPod beat and surfing the Internet on their Wi-Fi'd laptops.

Hell is a round-the-clock orgy of people relating intimately with their high-tech gadgets while ignoring everyone around them. It's a place whose motto is not "Be here now," but "Be somewhere else all the time."

Hell is crammed with reprobates who lacked the guts to say no to the high-tech pushers. It's elbow to elbow with hypocrites who once mocked the kind of person they've become, with liars who, allegedly in the name of efficiency, give into one new high-tech communications toy after another.

And who can resist that inferno?

Not me, not entirely, even though I've fended off the BlackBerry devil. And probably not you either.

High-tech communication gadgets are like alcoholic drinks. Or Girl Scout thin mints. They're chronic progressive compulsions. You go for one. Then just one more. Then another and another and another, until your life is overrun with gizmos that are outdated faster than broccoli.

The gadgets often start as things you'll use--you tell yourself--sparingly. But possibility starts

to masquerade as necessity, and soon every wisp of a boss' thought, every child's snuffle or Angelina news update becomes an orange alert.

How could you possibly wait two hours to return that call, that e-mail? How could you possibly wait to hear the latest song?

Be here now? Huh? Download now. E-mail now. Call back this very nanosecond.

It's hard to imagine that only 10 years ago almost no one had any of these necessities. That's right, children--not only was it impossible to check your porno spam while you were out and about, but only the avant-garde geeks had e-mail.

Now people of all classes are high-tech-toy junkies. Check out any Best Buy, where rich and poor mingle daily in pursuit of high-tech happiness and credit-card misery.

There's misery beyond the financial in this mania. A friend recently confessed, with a sigh, that she hadn't gone anywhere in two years without her cell phone, not even out for a run. She mentioned the anxiety that jolts her each time a new e-mail pings in her inbox. I sighed in empathy.

I'm convinced that the irresistible appeal of these gizmos, the one that transcends instant communication, is their ability to supply instant distraction, especially from life's hard, grim thoughts.

Who has time for existential questions when you're trying to program your new iPod? Can't think about death while you're trying to burn a new playlist to CD.

The gizmos also allow us to feel powerful even as, in our luxurious modern world, we physically become weaker. Relieved of the need to fight nature to survive, we conquer . . . gadgets!

For the evolution of the species, we learn to type on teensy keys with our thumbs. We strain to decipher manuals that are impenetrable in all of their five languages. We cleverly devise space in drawers for those manuals to molder while we wait for the next bad manual and the next indispensable gizmo we'll never fully program.

Is this heaven or is it hell? As the devil knows, it can be hard to tell the difference until it's too late.

Write down three facts that intrigued you from each article and pose two discussion questions

"Wireless technology changing work and play"	"Resisting Urge to download with the devil"
Fact:	Fact:
Fact:	Fact:
Fact:	Fact:
Question 1:	Question 1:
Question 2:	Question 2:
Connections between the two articles?	

Subjective writing is writing that is biased; the author expresses a clear opinion. Which piece has a strongly subjective point of view? Do you agree with the author's opinion? Why or why not?

Subjective Piece/ opinion of author:

My reaction to that piece: